

AMENDMENT

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously presented) An isolated polynucleotide comprising the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.

6-8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously presented) An isolated polynucleotide which encodes a polypeptide that comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

10-11. (Canceled)

12. (Original) An Escherichia coli strain Top10/pXK99EdeaD deposited as DSM 14464.

13-33. (Canceled)

34. (Previously presented) An isolated polynucleotide comprising nucleotides 259 to 2130 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

35. (Previously presented) An isolated polynucleotide consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1 or a fragment of SEQ ID NO: 1 that encodes a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

36. (Canceled)

37. (Previously presented) An isolated polynucleotide comprising the nucleotide sequence of the complete complement of SEQ ID NO: 1.

38. (Previously presented) A vector comprising the isolated polynucleotide of any of claims 5, 9, 34, 35 or 37.

39. (Canceled)

40. (Previously presented) An isolated polynucleotide consisting of a DNA fragment of SEQ ID NO: 1, wherein said fragment consists of at least 30 consecutive nucleotides.

41. (Canceled)

42. (Previously presented) An isolated polynucleotide consisting of a DNA fragment of the complete complement of SEQ ID NO: 1, wherein said fragment consists of at least 30 consecutive nucleotides.

43. (Canceled)

44. (Currently amended) ~~The vector of claim 43, wherein said vector~~ A vector which is pXK99EdeaD deposited in Escherichia coli Top/pXK99EdeaD under DSM 14464.

45. (Canceled)

46. (Previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid primer or probe consisting of a DNA fragment of SEQ ID NO: 1 or its complement over the full-length of the fragment of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein said fragment consists of at least 30 consecutive nucleotides.

47. (Canceled)

48. (Previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid primer or probe consisting of a DNA fragment of SEQ ID NO: 1 or its complement over the full-length of the fragment of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein said fragment consists of at least 40 consecutive nucleotides.

49-50. (Canceled)

51. (Currently amended) A recombinant host cell of the genus *Corynebacterium* or of the species *Escherichia coli* comprising the vector of ~~claim 43~~ claim 38.

52. (Previously presented) The host cell of claim 51, wherein said host cell is of the species *Corynebacterium glutamicum*.

53. (Previously presented) A vector comprising an isolated polynucleotide, wherein said isolated polynucleotide consists of the isolated polynucleotide of claim 35.

54. (Previously presented) A bacterium of the species *Escherichia coli* comprising a vector which includes an isolated polynucleotide, wherein said isolated polynucleotide consists of the isolated polynucleotide of claim 35.

55. (Currently amended) A method for the fermentative preparation of L-amino acids which comprises

cultivating a recombinant host cell of the genus *Corynebacterium* or of the species *Escherichia coli* containing which produce the L-amino acid and attenuating expression of a nucleic acid sequence selected from the group consisting of

- (a) an isolated polynucleotide comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 or its complement;
- (b) an isolated polynucleotide sequence, or its complement, which encodes the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2;
- (c) an isolated polynucleotide comprising nucleotides 259 to 2130 of SEQ ID NO: 1 or its complement;
- (d) an isolated polynucleotide consisting of at least 30 consecutive nucleotides of SEQ ID NO: 1 or its complement;
- (e) an isolated polynucleotide consisting of at least 40 consecutive nucleotides of SEQ ID NO: 1 or its complement;

~~(d)~~ (f) an isolated polynucleotide consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1 or a fragment of SEQ ID NO: 1 that encodes a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2; ~~and inducing expression of the nucleic acid sequence.~~

56. (Previously presented) The method of claim 55, wherein the host cell is of the species *Corynebacterium glutamicum*.